

Remarks Honoring the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project

November 10, 1993

The President. I want to welcome Diane Evans and all the members of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project who are here to do an unveiling of a model of the statue which will be formally commemorated tomorrow on Veteran's Day. I have a few other remarks I want to make in a moment, but let me just say that the people who have worked on this project deserve the thanks of the Nation. They have worked for years and years, and today and tomorrow are very big days for them.

I wanted to give them the opportunity to be seen today by the United States in bringing this model to the White House, where it will be on permanent display. And I want to introduce Diane now to say whatever she'd like to say and then do the unveiling.

[At this point, Ms. Evans thanked the President and presented a replica of the monument to him. Following the presentation, sculptor Glenna Goodacre explained how the monument was designed to honor the women who served in the Vietnam war.]

The President. This is wonderful.

Secretary Babbitt, Mr. Brown, do you want to say anything?

Secretary Babbitt. It's a great pleasure to be here. It's really incredible. I sense that this brings this Mall together in its meaning and in its remembrance and its healing effect. I guess I'm just really pleased, Mr. President, to be the landlord.

The President. And you're about to witness the transfer.

Secretary Brown. Mr. President, I'd just like to make one observation. It appears to me that this memorial here is a living memorial. It speaks to all people who pass by, that freedom is not free, that there is a cost for war when you place people in armed conflict. And that I think in that respect, it will serve our Nation very, very well as a symbol of peace and the extent with which we will go to make sure that peace comes about in our world.

The President. These documents, first of all, are witnesses that I am going to sign attesting the conveyance of the memorial to the Department of the Interior. This is a proclamation which names the National Women's Veterans Recognition Week, that on this year is Veteran's Day, to recognize the special importance of that. So I am going to sign these with all these pens so that all the people here can have——

[At this point, the President signed the memorandum of understanding and the proclamation, and Ms. Evans presented the President with a commemorative program.]

The President. Thank you. Thank you all very much.

NAFTA Debate

Q. Mr. President, we know you're happy with the performance of the Vice President. Is there going to be any effect on Capitol Hill?

The President. I think so. We'll talk more about it in the press conference in a few minutes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Diane Evans, chair, Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, and Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 6622—National Women Veterans Recognition Week, 1993

November 10, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

American women have served with distinction and courage in every overseas combat theater of conflict since World War I. Some have been wounded in the line of duty, and others have given their lives for our country, but all have contributed tremendously to the

success of America's Armed Forces. Bringing their talent, skill, and vision to a variety of occupations within each of the service branches, women have made an everlasting mark on the military history of the United States.

The loyalty and the sacrifices of the women who have served our country merit the respect and admiration of all of us. It is fitting then that we set aside a special time to honor these veterans, to salute them for their tireless devotion to duty while in uniform and for their patriotism and commitment to democratic ideals in civilian life.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial is a monument dedicated to the many women who volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era. Appropriately, it recognizes the living as well as those who died. It is part of the important ongoing process of healing, both for veterans and for our country as a whole. It is a remembrance of the brave and compassionate service that is so worthy of our esteem.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of November 7, 1993, as National Women Veterans Recognition Week, and I encourage all Americans to join in acknowledging the contributions and sacrifices of these veterans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 15.

The President's News Conference

November 10, 1993

The President. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. As we approach the end of this congressional session, just before Thanksgiving, it's important that our people know that here in Washington we are finally tackling issues that are central to the lives of all Americans, replacing gridlock and inaction with progress in the pursuit of the common good.

In the last few months, we passed the largest deficit reduction package in history. Interest rates and inflation have remained at historic lows. Millions of Americans have been able to refinance their homes. Investment is up, and more new jobs have come into our economy in the last 10 months than in the previous 4 years. There's been a real effort to improve security for America's working families with the dramatic expansion in the earned-income tax credit, to help working Americans with children who live on modest incomes to do better through tax reductions. We've opened more of our products in high-tech areas to exports. We've passed the family leave law. We've expanded opportunities for people to invest in new businesses in this country. And we've presented a comprehensive plan that will put real health care security within reach of every American. We're working on reinventing our Government to do more with less, and I am proud to say that the Congress is clearly signaling today its determination to move on reforming campaign finance laws. A bill passed the Senate several months ago. Today the House committee is voting out a bill which I believe the House of Representatives will pass.

This is a record of real achievement. But in the next few weeks before we go home, Congress will be challenged to take even greater strides in protecting the personal security of Americans and in creating more opportunities for us to compete and win in the global environment.

The Senate is completing work now on our crime bill, legislation that will fulfill the campaign promise I made to put 100,000 additional police officers on the street, to keep